

The Pissant House, *WOODSTOWN VICINITY*
~~Pilesgrove~~, Salem County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Pissant House
Pilesgrove, Salem County, New Jersey

Owner: Theodore Smith

Date of Erection: 1743

Architect:

Builder: Zaccheus Dunn

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brick

Exterior walls - brick,
Flemish bond

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The Pissant House is one of the oldest houses in the Pilesgrove section. On the gable the letters "Z. D. D." and the date "1743" appear. It was built by Zaccheus and Deborah Dunn who originally came from France. They fled after the Edict of Nantes to England coming later to America. The house has had many owners. It takes its name from one of them, a John Pissant who bought

the house at Sheriff's sale in 1822. The most famous name of all those who held title to the property is that of Stephen Decatur and Moses Gillingham, who bought the property in 1803.

Decatur was the father of the famous Stephen Decatur, one of the heroes of the War of 1812. The father's reputation in American naval history is based upon his capture of three French privateers of Cape May in the brief war with France in 1798.

The house has changed but little on the outside; inside there is one exceptionally fine room.

Bibliography:

Sickler, J. S. The Old Houses of Salem County Salem, Sunbeam Publishing Company, 1934

Valter B. Kurt
Supervising Historian

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